

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 7-15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended into independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 7 into independent form and respectfully request an indication of the allowance of independent Claim 7 and associated dependent Claims 8-15.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16, 17 and 22-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,977,642 to Nagatani. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of associated dependent Claim 3, as well as other features. Claim 3 was not included in this §103 rejection. As correctly acknowledged by the Examiner on page 6 of the September 22, 2006 Office Action, the Nagatani reference does not disclose that the light source power supply circuit synchronizes with one of the gate pulses sequentially outputted to plural gate bus lines formed in the liquid crystal display device. Accordingly, as this feature has now been added to independent Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 16, 17 and 22-28.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Nagatani in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0067332 to

Hirakata et al. Since the subject matter of dependent Claim 3 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1, Applicants will respond to this rejection as it applies to amended independent Claim 1, which has also been amended to include additional features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of independent Claim 1. More specifically, neither the Nagatani reference nor the Hirakata et al. reference, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an illumination device that includes a gate pulse that is outputted to a gate bus line as a display start line in the light-emitting area, where the light emission brightness of the light-emitting area becomes the intermediate lighting state.

The above-named feature of amended Claim 1 is supported by Fig. 2 of the present application and the present specification. Fig. 2 shows that when a gate pulse GP(1) is outputted to a gate bus line GL(1) as a display start line in the light-emitting area 25, the light emission brightness B(25) of the light-emitting area 25 becomes the intermediate lighting state S3. Moreover, page 28, lines 11-21 of the present specification recites as follows:

The light source control part 22 synchronizes with the latch pulse LP for causing the gate pulse GP(1) to be outputted to the gate bus line GL(1) as the display start line, and outputs the light emission control signal for controlling the current, which is to be fed to the cold cathode fluorescent lamp 30, to the light source power supply circuit 35. By this, the current fed to the cold cathode fluorescent lamp 30 from the light source power supply circuit 35 is controlled, and the light emission brightness B(25) of the light-emitting area 25 becomes the

intermediate lighting state S3 of almost one half of the maximum lighting brightness (emphasis added).

Similarly, Fig. 2 shows that when a gate pulse $GP(L/4+1)$ is outputted to a gate bus line $GL(L/4+1)$ as a display start line in the light-emitting area 26, the light emission brightness $B(26)$ of the light-emitting area 26 becomes the intermediate lighting state S3.

Amended claim 1 recites that when a gate pulse is outputted to a gate bus line as a display start line in the light-emitting area, the light emission brightness of the light-emitting area becomes the intermediate lighting state. However, Nagatani and Hirakata et al. fails to disclose or suggest this feature of amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Nagatani in view of United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0198039 to Jeong et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

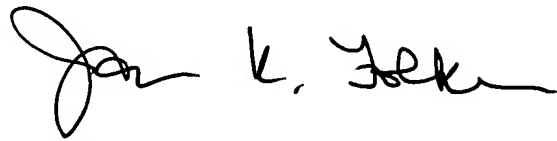
Claim 6 depends from independent Claim 1, and therefore includes all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this §103 rejection of dependent Claim 6 be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because the Jeong et al. reference fails to remedy the deficiencies noted above.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James K. Folker', written in a cursive style.

James K. Folker

Registration No. 37,538

December 22, 2006

Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080

Customer No. 24978

P:\DOCS\1324\68599\B16979.DOC